## REMARKS

This is a response to the non-final Office Action mailed on July 15, 2004.

The specification is amended as requested in paragraph 1 of the Office Action.

The drawings are amended as requested in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. In the corrected Fig. 2, the spelling of "RECOGNIZES" is corrected in box 205, and the singular "SYSTEM" is used in box 250. An annotated sheet showing the changes in also included.

Claims 2, 10 and 14 are amended to improve clarity. Regarding claim 2, see Fig. 2, box 220.

New claims 18-20 are based on the specification, e.g., page 11, lines 1-10.

Claims 1-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,191,773 to Maruno et al. (Maruno). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Maruno describes an interface apparatus that provides a display with menus 201, 202 and an icon 200 reflecting the shape of the viewer's hand. A CCD camera 3 picks up the hand shape. Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 32-40. A shape identifying means 22 judges if the shape is, for example, one finger, two fingers, or three fingers. Furthermore, an icon generating unit 24 may generate a numeral "1" or "2" based on the hand shape, and the corresponding menu item is emphasized. Figs 7(a) and 7(b), col. 5, lines 13-42. Accordingly, Muruno emphasizes a menu item in response to an identified hand shape. Maruno provides no disclosure or suggestion of Applicant's invention, where selection options are highlighted, and a selection gesture is received from a user for selecting a highlighted selection option. Thus, the selection option is already highlighted when it is selected. Maruno does the opposite – highlighting a menu item in response to an identified hand shape. Applicant's approach is advantageous because it provides a robust system that

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

A replacement sheet of drawings is attached hereto. In the corrected Fig. 2, the spelling of "RECOGNIZES" is corrected in box 205, and the singular "SYSTEM" is used in box 250. An annotated sheet showing the changes in also included.

overcomes the problems of the prior art, as discussed in the specification, e.g., pages 1-3. In particular, there is no confusion as to which selection option has been selected because the selection options are sequentially highlighted.

Withdrawal of the rejection to the independent claims 1, 10 and 14 is therefore respectfully requested. Furthermore, the dependent claims are allowable at least because of their dependence from an allowable independent claim. However, the dependent claims themselves recite further patentable features. For example, claim 2 sets forth that only one selection option is displayed at a time. In contrast, Maruno provides multiple menu items 201, 202 at a time (Fig. 1). Again, Applicant's approach is advantageous because it avoids confusion as to which selection option the user is responding to.

Withdrawal of the rejection to each of the dependent claims is therefore also respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the currently pending claims is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application along to an early issue. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any further issues to address.

Respectfully submitted,

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